

**EaP GREEN**

Partnership for Environment and Growth



This project is  
funded by the EU

# UNECE technical assistance within EaP GREEN in Belarus

Martin Smutny

Consultant to UNECE

Minsk, 20 December 2017

# EaP GREEN

**Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood** (EaP GREEN) programme is a large regional programme implemented in 2013-2017 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), OECD, UNEP, and UNIDO to assist the six European Union's Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in their transition to green economy.

The programme is financed by the European Commission, the four implementing organisations and other donors.



# EaP GREEN

The programme's overall objective is to assist the EaP countries ***to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion.***

The programme component that ECE is in charge of implementing, aims to ***promote the use of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and environmental impact assessment (EIA) as essential planning tools for an environmentally sustainable economic development.***

# SEA/EIA work-streams in EaP GREEN

- Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework
  - Legal reviews and legal drafting
- Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures
  - Trainings and workshops (national and sub-regional)
  - SEA/EIA pilots
- Strengthening of administrative capacities
  - Facilitating policy dialogue
  - Recommendations on institutional framework for SEA/EIA

**EaP GREEN**  
Partnership for Environment and Growth



This project is funded by the EU



## Establishing legislative framework for SEA and EIA



Armenia



Azerbaijan



Belarus



Georgia



Republic of  
Moldova



Ukraine

Legislative review carried out



Support to drafting the legislation provided including awareness raising events to support adoption of the legislation



Draft legislation in intergovernmental discussion or submitted for adoption



Legislation adopted



## Implementing SEA/EIA pilots

SEA/EIA pilots finalized



SEA/EIA pilots to be finalized in 2017



EU GREEN Partnership for Environment and Growth

This project is funded by the EU



## Preparing national SEA guidelines



Armenia



Azerbaijan



Belarus



Georgia



Republic of  
Moldova



Ukraine

National SEA guidelines prepared



National SEA guidelines to be finalized in 2017



## Organizing trainings on SEA

The training manual prepared English and Russian as a background for future trainings and workshops in the countries



Training materials on SEA tailored to national and local conditions produced



Relevant governmental staff, experts, representatives of NGOs trained on SEA



Participation of the country representatives at the sub-regional events



Partnership for Environment and Growth



This project is funded by the EU








# ACTIVITIES IN BELARUS

**EU GREEN**  
Partnership for Environment and Growth



  
This project is  
funded by the EU





# General approach

- The activities have been carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
- Coordinated with
  - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - UN Environment
  - ENVSEC Project *‘Managing Environment and Security Risks with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)’*



# Legal development

- Initial review of the legislative and institutional framework on SEA (2013)
- Assistance on the drafting
  - A new law on state ecological expertise, SEA and EIA (adopted in July 2016);
  - Secondary legislation (regulations on EIA, SEA and state ecological expertise) to address existing gaps vis-à-vis the provisions of the Protocol and the Convention (2016, adopted in January 2017)

# Legal development

- In-depth training on SEA and a drafting group meeting on SEA (September 2016)
- In-depth training on EIA and a drafting group meeting on EIA (September 2016)
- Review of the draft regulations (October 2016) and adopted documents (February 2017) outlining possible changes to fully align legislation with the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA

# Transboundary pilot on EIA post-project analysis

A joint pilot project between Belarus and Ukraine on the EIA post-project of the exploitation of the Khotislavskoye quarry (2013 – 2014)

- A bilateral Working Group for the environmental monitoring of the Khotislavskoye quarry was established and dialogue between experts of Belarus and Ukraine was initiated;
- Data on the Khotislavskoye quarry was collected and analysed, and
- Recommendations for improving the transboundary EIA procedure and post-project analysis in Belarus and Ukraine were prepared by the international and national experts on EIA



# Transboundary pilot on EIA post-project analysis

- The report by a bilateral Working Group and the draft recommendations on post-project analysis discussed at a task force meeting consisting of national authorities of both countries (Minsk, December 2013)
- The public had the opportunity to provide comments during a public participation workshop (Malorita, February 2014)
- Final conference organized in April 2014

The post-project analysis recommendations proved useful during the negotiations of the bilateral agreement on transboundary EIA between Poland and Belarus (September, 2016)

# Capacity building and awareness raising

- Three regional level training workshops on SEA were organized in Gomel, Brest, and Grodno (2013)
  - Through the events, altogether fifty four experts from regional authorities, municipalities, NGOs, and other organisations were introduced by the concept and use of SEA, which was illustrated through case studies
- Training on SEA for sectoral authorities (Minsk, 19 December 2017) to
  - Raise awareness and build capacities on the SEA process under the Protocol on SEA
  - Support implementation of the national legislation on SEA.

**EaPGREEN**  
Partnership for Environment and Growth







# SUB-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES



**EaP GREEN**  
Partnership for Environment and Growth



This project is  
funded by the EU





# Major outputs and achievements

## Legislation

- Overview of legislative and administrative reforms for implementing SEA in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus
- General Guidance for Developing SEA Framework

## Capacity

- Three sub-regional events organized:
  - Study tour on SEA to the Czech Republic (2014)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Sub-regional conference & Training of trainers workshop: Enhancing SEA in selected countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Georgia, 2015)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub-regional workshop: Sharing experience with introducing SEA and EIA in selected countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Ukraine, 2017)

## Training

- Manual for Trainers: Application of the Protocol on SEA

## Awareness

- Video and brochure on SEA facts and benefits



This project is funded by the EU



Thank you for your attention!

<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/greening-the-economy-in-the-pan-european-region/eap-green.html>